1	2	3	4
Manipur	1.66	0.106	14930
Meghalaya	1.83	0	15300
Mizoram	0.68	0	4662
Nagaland	1.24	0.843	9984
Orissa	32.98	0	236232
Punjab	4.68	16.378	177894
Rajasthan	24.31	85.085	299184
Sikkim	0.43	0	4186
Tamil Nadu	48.63	0	419196
Tripura	2.95	0	23124
Uttar Pradesh	106.79	147.018	931329
Uttarakhand	4.98	5.625	67386
West Bengal	51.79	72.474	564077
Andaman & Nicobar	0.28	0.082	4362
Chandigarh	0.23	0.034	8166
D & N Haveli	0.18	0.029	2086
Daman & Diu	0.04	0.012	1588
Lakshadweep	0.03	0	795
Puducherry	0.84	0	9192
TOTAL :	652.03	797,697	6865014

Source: The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Price rise

817. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continuously there is price rise of wheat, onion and oil etc.;

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking on urgent basis to effectively control the price-rise in the interest of common man;

(c) whether Government is considering to make available wheat, onion and oil etc. in retail stores, throughout the country to contain price rise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Government is aware of the increase in prices of some essential commodities. During the current year, prices of most essential commodities have remained within reasonable levels. Retail prices of wheat remained steady at Rs. 13 per kg in Delhi for the past 3 months. Prices of onion are ruling low as compared to last year. Prices of edible oils have declined. Some price increase is recorded mainly in rice and pulses (except gram dal).

(b) Government has taken effective steps to bridge the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities and stabilize prices as highlighted below:

(i) Government has procured a record 50 million tonnes of foodgrains this year and has also decided to create a Strategic Reserve of 5 million tonnes of foodgrains, out of the domestic procurement. This is in addition to the buffer stock held by FCI every year.

(ii) Reducing import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize and butter and ghee;

(iii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;

(iv) Banning export of non-basmati rice, wheat, edible oils (except castor oil, coconut oil and oils produced from minor forest produce, except sesame oil) and pulses (except kabuli chana);

(v) Imposition of stock limit orders in the case of rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils and oilseeds;

(vi) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002;

(vii) Government launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs.15/kg.

(c) Essential commodities like wheat, onion and oil etc. are marketed in retail stores throughout the country. In addition, to check inflationary trends during festival season, Government has released 9 lakh tonnes of wheat in September 2008 under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) (Domestic) to States/UTs for September and October 2008 for distribution to retail consumers and another 8.40 lakh tonnes of wheat in October 2008 for sale to bulk consumers in States/UTs for October and November 2008.

(d) Does not arise.

Quota of foodgrains to Andaman & Nicobar Islands

818. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has curtailed the annual quota of rice and wheat for the APL families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 28200 metric tonnes to 17268 metric tonnes and from 8100 metric tonnes to 2964 metric tonnes respectively;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that PDS rice and wheat and Tsunami relief rice quantity has been drastically reduced; and